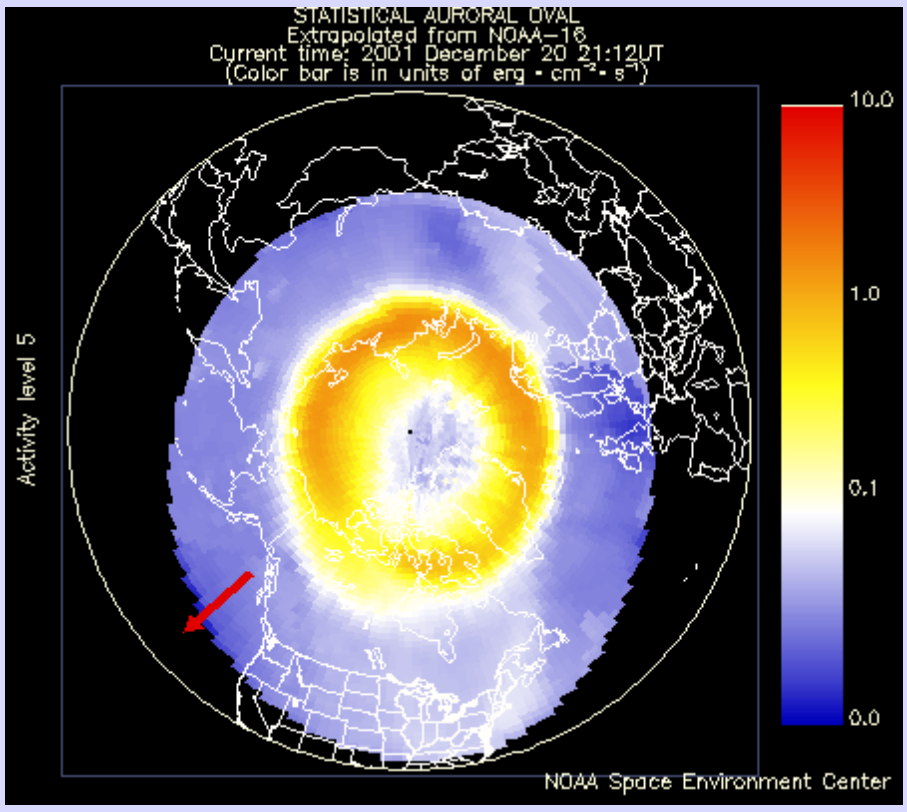
United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

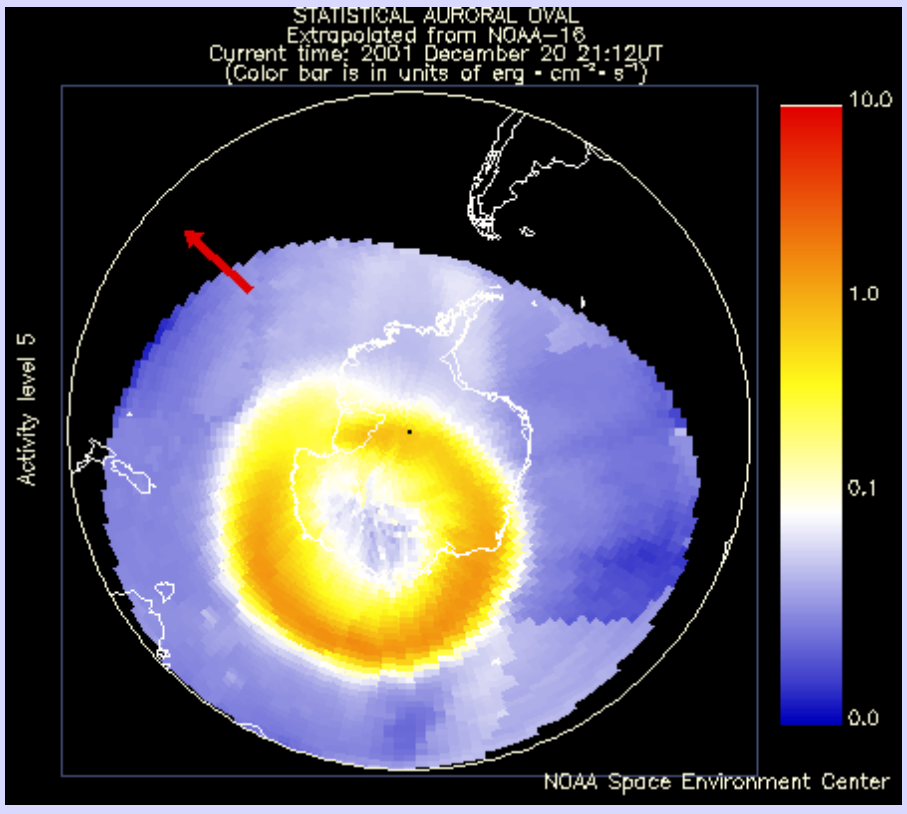
National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC)

Satellites view the Aurora

This presentation provides an estimate of the location, extent, and intensity of aurora on a global basis. For example, the presentation gives a guide to the possibility that the aurora is located near a given location in the northern hemisphere under the conditions that existed at the time of the most recent polar satellite pass.



This plot shows the current extent and position of the auroral oval in the northern hemisphere, extrapolated from measurements taken during the most recent polar pass of the NOAA POES satellite.



This plot shows the current extent and position of the auroral oval in the southern hemisphere, extrapolated from measurements taken during the most recent polar pass of the NOAA POES satellite.

The red arrow in the plots, that looks like a clock hand, points toward the noon meridian.

The statistical pattern depicting the auroral oval is appropriate to the auroral activity level determined from the power flux observed during the most recent polar satellite pass. The power fluxes in the statistical pattern are color coded on a scale from 0 to 10 ergs .cm-2.sec-1 according to the color bar on the right. The pattern has been oriented with respect to the underlying geographic map using the current universal time, updated every ten minutes.

Links to other information about NOAA polar-orbiting satellites can be found at
http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/stp/NOAA/noaa_poes.html

January 2002

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

December

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February

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S M T W T F S

Underlying scientific data viewable at: **http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/ngdc.html**